

SURGICAL CLINIC OF THE HOTEL DIEU.*

BY M. BRESCHET.

On Ranula.

M. Dupuytren thinks that the best mode of obtaining the radical cure of ranula, would be to keep the aperture, made into the tumour, constantly open, by means of a foreign body introduced and kept in the cyst; on the same principle as in the operation for fistula lachrymalis. To effect this object, it is necessary to use a small silver instrument, composed of a hollow cylinder, which allows of the escape of the saliva. The cylinder should be four lines in length, and about two in breadth, and terminated at each extremity by a small ovoid plate, slightly concave on its free surface, and convex on the surface, which adheres to the cylinder, and looking towards that of the other extremity; one of these small plates should be placed inside the sac, and the other should correspond to it externally, that is to say, in the cavity of the mouth. M. Dupuytren used this instrument for the first time in the Hotel Dieu on a young soldier, who had been troubled for some months with a small oblong tumour under his tongue, which slowly increased in size, not causing, however, any pain, but which greatly impeded the motions of the tongue and deglutition.

M. Dupuytren performed the operation in the following manner:—An opening was made in the small sac with a curved scissors; there escaped a clear viscid fluid; the operator then introduced the instrument into the cavity of the tumour by the opening which he had made, so that one of the plates was free in the mouth. From this time the tumour gradually diminished, and fifteen days after the operation the patient left the hospital perfectly cured. He could speak, eat, and, in fact, could execute with the tongue every possible motion without any impediment. M. Dupuytren conceiving that this instrument presented some imperfections, made some slight modifications in its construction. He saw that the canal of the cylinder was useless, because the saliva might escape very easily between the lips of the opening and the circumference of the cylinder; moreover, food collecting in the canal of the cylinder, obstructed it and finally obliterated it. The small plate situated externally was too large, its raised edge irritated the inferior surface of the tongue, which was continually placed at the upper part of the mouth. For these reasons he altered the instrument in the follow-

ing manner:—the edges of the plates were curved in the contrary way, so that the concavities looked towards each other; their lengths were diminished, and they were made elliptical, so that he diminished both the thickness and the extent of the cylinder, which made its dimensions three lines in length, and one or one and a half in thickness. This instrument may be made of silver, or platinum; and this last metal appears to be the most convenient, because it is less easily altered by the animal fluids.

M. Dupuytren has obtained, with this sort of instrument uniform success. It may be conceived, that if the tumour were very large, if its parietes were thick, it will be convenient, before applying the instrument, to make a large opening into the sac, sometimes even of excising a portion of it, and of not passing the instrument until the wound has almost cicatrised. This method, which is both easy and ingenious, does not at all resemble any which have been proposed; not excepting setons, bougies, or canulas; for by all these means, the use of which is difficult, embarrassing, sometimes even insupportable, the only object is to make a fistula; and experiment shows, that as soon as the foreign bodies are withdrawn, the fistula is obliterated, and the complaint again returns.

EXAMINATION OF THE EYES OF A PERSON
AFFECTED WITH AMAUROSIS.*

Professor Heusinger found, on examining the eyes of a person affected with amaurosis, that both optic nerves were in a state of atrophy, and that the eyes were well formed, and presented the natural consistence. On puncturing the sclerotic, which was done with care, a considerable quantity of a yellow-coloured humour escaped; it communicated a yellow tint to the water, and coagulated on the addition of alcohol. The choroid and retina were natural, the vitreous humour had completely disappeared; the lens was yellow and opaque.

The most remarkable part of the examination was, the discovery of three translucent vesicles, of a pyriform shape, and the size of a pea, adhering to the outer surface of the retina. These contained a fluid similar to that which escaped on opening the sclerotic, and M. Heusinger thinks, that the fluid, which first escaped, was contained in similar vesicles. According to M. H., they were formed by Jacob's membrane. Both eyes presented exactly the same appearances.

* Répertoire Général d'Anatomie.

* Heusinger's Zeitschrift, für die Physik. Tom. i.